

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DOTE-00 AID-20 DODE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /087 W

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R 300945Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1163

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THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM BOMBAY SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO
CLACUTTA MADRAS DTD 29 APR IS RPTD:

QUOTE

BOMBAY 0969

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB IN

SUBJ: RIVALRY BETWEEN TWO BOMBAY PORT UNIONS REGARDING THIRD
SHIFT WORKING

REF BOMBAY 0474

1. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT BOMBAY PORT CONGESTION LAST FALL
LESSENNED CONSIDERABLY AND TURNROUND OF SHIPS GREATLY IMPROVED
WITH INTRODUCTION OF THIRD SHIFT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 1973.
FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENT IN PORT SITUATION, SHIPPING CONFERENCES
ABOLISHED BOMBAY PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE IN FEBRUARY 1974
(REFTEL).

2. TRANSPORT AND DOCK WORKERS' UNION (TDWU) WHICH ORIGINALLY
AGREED TO PERMIT THIRD SHIFT WORKING IN DECEMBER AS TEMPORARY
MEASURE TO REMOVE CONGESTION, RECENTLY WROTE A LETTER TO BOMBAY
PORT TRUST (BPT) ADVOCATING DISCONTINUANCE THIRD SHIFT EFFECTIVE
MAY 1 AS IT WAS INJURIOUS TO WORKERS' HEALTH AND CLEARANCE
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RATE AT PORT COULD BE MAINTAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL WITH EFFICIENT

WORKING

OF TWO SHIFTS. TDWU IS AN HMS AFFILIATE; ITS SECRETARIES ARE S.R. KULKARNI (WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF ALL INDIA PORT AND DOCK WORKERS' FEDERATION), MANOHAR KOTWAL AND K.A. KHAN.

3. BPT FELT THAT CONTINUANCE OF THIRD SHIFT WORKING WAS ESSENTIAL, AND DISAPPROVED TDWU APPEAL POINTING OUT THAT 600 NEW WORKERS HAD BEEN HIRED TO MAN THE SHIFT. ABOUT THIS SAME TIME, ANOTHER PORT UNION, B.P.T. EMPLOYEES' UNION (BPTEU), ANOTHER HMS AFFILIATE, CALLED FOR CONTINUANCE OF THE THIRD SHIFT AND CLAIMED IT HAD BACKING OF A MAJORITY WORKERS. BPTEU, UNDER LEADERSHIP OF DR. SHANTI PATEL, CLAIMED IT HAD GAINED IN MEMBERSHIP IN RECENT MONTHS AT EXPENSE OF TDWU AND CHALLENGED TDWU TO A SHOW OF STRENGTH ON THE ISSUE OF THIRD SHIFT WORKING. BPT MANAGEMENT WELCOMED BPTEU STANCE AND DECIDED THAT THIRD SHIFT WOULD CONTINUE. HOWEVER, BPT WILL KEEP ON TALKING WITH TDWU.

4. TDWU, INSTEAD OF TAKING UP CHALLENGE OF BPTEU, QUIETLY LET MATTER SLIDE AND CONTENTED ITSELF BY SAYING THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BPT ON THIRD SHIFT ISSUE.

5. BOTH TDWU AND BPTEU ARE LEADING UNIONS IN BOMBAY PORT AND BECAUSE OF THE RIVALRY BETWEEN KULKARNI AND SHANTI PATEL, THERE IS KEEN COMPETITION FOR EXTENDING THEIR WORKER INFLUENCE. THIS RIVALRY MAY SOON SHOW ITSELF IN OTHER PORT MATTERS AS THERE IS ALREADY A DEMAND FROM BPTEU THAT THE DOCK LABOUR BOARD, WHICH REGULATES EMPLOYMENT OF STEVEDORE LABOR AND IN WHICH KULKARNI FOLLOWERS HAVE A HOLD, SHOULD BE DISSOLVED AND A NEW BOARD CONSTITUTED. IN AUGUST, 1973 THE UNIONS WERE DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE OF LOADING PEANUTS ON RUSSIAN VESSEL, SALAVATI, FOR SHIPMENT TO RUSSIA. EBBVARXF#TUSSE BPTEU CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED ITS POSITION TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF TDWU.

MCCASKILL

UNQUOTE

MOYNIHAN

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT FACILITIES, PORT CHARGES, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR OBJECTIVES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE05723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740102-0830
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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